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10-10-2005

# Concert: An Evening with Michael Colgrass

Michael Colgrass

Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble

Cayenna Ponchione

Ithaca College Chamber Orchestra

Jeffrey Grogan

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Authors**

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ITHACA COLLEGE  

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**An Evening with Michael Colgrass**

**The 2005-6 Karel Husa Visiting  
Professor of Composition**

**Ford Hall  
Monday, October 10, 2005  
8:15 p.m.**

ITHACA

## PROGRAM

### Chamber Music for Percussion Quintet (1954)

Members of the Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble

Matt Donello

Jennie Herreid

Josh Oxford

Isabelle Huang

Alan Dust

Cayenna Ponchione, conductor

### Letter from Mozart (1976)

Ithaca College Chamber Orchestra

Jeffrey Grogan, conductor

## INTERMISSION

### Variations for Four Drums and Viola (1957)

Debra Moree, viola;

Conrad Alexander, percussion

### Winds of Nagual (1985)

Ithaca College Wind Ensemble

Stephen Peterson, conductor



**Michael Colgrass** (b. 1932) started his musical career at age 12 with his own jazz band. Only when he went to the University of Illinois in 1954 did he enter the world of symphonic music, first as a percussionist and then as composer. After composition studies with Lukas Foss and Darius Milhaud at the Berkshire Music Festival and the Aspen School, Colgrass went to New York and free-lanced with a wide range of groups, including the New York Philharmonic, Dizzy Gillespie, the original West Side Story orchestra on Broadway, the Columbia Recording Orchestra's Stravinsky Conducts Stravinsky series, and numerous ballet, opera and jazz ensembles. During this time he continued to study composition with Wallingford Rigger (1958) and Ben Weber (1958-60).

As a percussion soloist he premiered many of his own works: with Emanuel Vardi in "Variations for Four Drums and Viola" (also recorded for MGM Records); in "Fantasy Variations" for percussion soloist and percussion sextet at Carnegie Recital Hall; in "Rhapsodic Fantasy for Fifteen Drums and Orchestra" with the Danish Radio Orchestra; in recordings of his own "Three Brothers" (Uramia Records) and "Percussion Music" (Period Records).

In 1967 he stopped playing to devote himself entirely to composing. Since then he has received commissions from the New York Philharmonic, The Boston Symphony Orchestra (twice), the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (twice), the National Arts Centre Orchestra (twice), The Minnesota Orchestra, the symphony orchestras of Detroit, St. Louis, San Francisco, Washington, the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, The Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, the Fromm and Ford Foundations, The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and numerous other orchestras, chamber groups, choral groups, soloists and organizations.

He won the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Music for *Déjà vu*, which was commissioned and premiered by the New York Philharmonic. In addition, he received an Emmy Award in 1982 for a PBS documentary "Soundings: The Music of Michael Colgrass." He has been awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, A Rockefeller Grant, First Prize in the Barlow and Sudler International Wind Ensemble Competitions, and the 1988 Jules Leger Prize for Chamber Music.

Among his most recent works are *Ghosts of Pangea* (2000) for orchestra, commissioned by the University of Miami in Oxford, Ohio, for their millennium celebration; *Dream Dancer* (2001) for alto saxophone and wind orchestra, commissioned by the World-Wide Concurrent Premieres & Commissioning Fund, Inc. for 25 wind ensembles and premiered by the New England Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble by saxophonist Kenneth Radnofsky; *Crossworlds* (2002), for flute, piano and orchestra, commissioned

by the Boston Symphony for flutist Marina Piccinini and pianist Andreas Haefliger; and an orchestration of the Bach-Goldberg Variations (2003) for 10-piece orchestra, which he premiered with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

Although he makes his living as a composer, he has for 25 years been giving workshops throughout North America in performing excellence, combining Grotowski physical training, mime, dance and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). He has given workshops in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Italy, Indonesia, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. His teaching techniques were featured in the PBS documentary, "Soundings: The Music of Michael Colgrass" which won an Emmy Award in 1982, and also in his recently completed book, My Lessons with Kumi - How I Learned to Perform with Confidence in Life and Work. His strategies for creativity are explained in Robert Dilts' book Tools For Dreamers. He is the founder of Deep Listening, a technique for using hypnosis with audiences to enhance listening pleasure, which is featured in the book of outstanding NLP developments, Leaves Before The Wind.

Colgrass has written much music for children and recently initiated music creativity projects in middle schools in Toronto, and Longmeadow, Massachusetts. He is currently active in networking the activities of music-loving parents and teachers throughout North America who have successfully fought to save music programs in their schools when threatened by cutbacks.

He lives in Toronto and makes his living internationally as a composer. His wife, Ulla, is a journalist and editor who writes about music and the arts.



# ITHACA COLLEGE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

## Jeffrey D. Grogan, conductor

### **Violin I**

Megan Atchley  
Daniel Demetriou  
Joshua Modney, concertmaster  
Mary Raschella  
Shawn Riley  
Christian Simmelink

### **Violin II**

Natasha Colkett  
Brenna Gillette  
Christopher Jones\*  
Jeannine McGreevy  
Maeve O'Hara  
Elizabeth Stein

### **Viola**

Sayer Palmer  
Hannah Petersen\*  
Loftan Sullivan  
Annabelle Terbetski

### **Cello**

Alana Chown  
Jennifer Chieffalo  
Diana Geiger  
Elizabeth Meszaros\*  
Sam Boase-Miller

### **Bass**

Xander Lott  
Audrey Miller  
Patrick O'Connell\*  
Ben Reynolds

### **Flute**

Michelle Casareale\*  
Mary Parsnick

### **Oboe**

Emily Di Angelo  
Noelle Drewes\*

### **Clarinet**

Sarah Bennett\*  
Matthew Libera

### **Bassoon**

Katie Barker  
Andrew Beeks\*

### **Horn**

Michael Bellofatto\*  
Rose Valby

### **Trumpet**

Lindsey Jessick  
Nikola Tomic\*

### **Trombone**

Lloyd Dugger\*  
Nicholas Smarcz

### **Tuba**

Will Plenk

### **Timpani**

Andrew Sickmeier

### **Percussion**

Evan Peltier  
Edith Resnik  
Greg Sutliff

### **Piano**

Russell Posegate

### **Harp**

Myra Kovary+

### **Accordian**

Andrea Vos

\* denotes principal  
+ guest artist

Personnel listed in alphabetical order to emphasize  
each member's personal contribution.

# ITHACA COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE

## Stephen Peterson, conductor

## Benjamin Aneff, graduate conductor

### Piccolo

Melissa Bravo

### Flute

Michelle Casareale

Jacquie Christen

Leslie Harrison

Mary Parsnick\*

Melissa Wertheimer

### Oboe

Noelle Drewes\*

Monica Eason

Christopher Neske

### Bassoon

Katie Barker

Andrew Beeks\*

Jeff Ward

### E♭ Clarinet

Caryn Poulin

### Clarinet

Sarah Bennett\*

Kelly Bochynski

Will Cicola

Lauren Del Re

Meggan Frost

Diego Vásquez

### Bass Clarinet

Anne Woodard

### Contralto Clarinet

Dominic Hartjes

### Contrabass Clarinet

Eric Callahan

### Alto Saxophone

Jason Bellott

Joel Diegert\*

### Tenor Saxophone

Deanna Loertscher

### Baritone Saxophone

Andrew Lawrence

### Trumpet

Bridgett Colgan

Lindsey Jessick\*

Nick Kunkle

Calvin Rice

Omar Williams

Tim Winfield

### Flugel Horn

Joe Brown

### Horn

Chelsey Hamm

Brian Hoeflschweiger

Carlie Kilgore\*

Meredith Moore

Jenna Troiano

Rose Valby\*

### Trombone

Megan Boutin\*

Mark Lalumia

Phillip Machnik

Emily Selman

### Bass Trombone

D. Phillip Truex

Nick Smarcz

### Euphonium

Matthew Feinberg

Mike Vecchio\*

### Tuba

Nicholas Gann

Jessica Mower\*

### Timpani

Valerie Vassar

### Percussion

Matt Donello\*

Jennie Herreid

Jason Hunt

Evan Peltier

Lee Treat

### Piano

Josh Horsch

### String Bass

Alexander Lott

Patrick O'Connell

### Harp

Myra Kovary+

### Graduate Assistants

Andrew Krus

Dominic Hartjes

\* denotes principal  
player  
+ guest artist